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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3275  
INFO RUCNAFG/AFGHANISTAN COLLECTIVE  
RUEHZG/NATO EU COLLECTIVE  
RUEKJCS/OSD WASHINGTON DC  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC  
RUEABND/DEA HQS WASHINGTON DC  
RHMFIUU/HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL  
RHEHAAA/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC  
RUCPDOG/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC

UNCLAS KABUL 000674

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR SCA/RA, SCA/A, EEB, EEB/ESC/IEC (GRIFFIN)  
DEPT PASS AID/ANE, OPIC  
DEPT PASS USTR FOR LILIENFELD AND KLEIN  
DEPT PASS OPIC FOR ZAHNISER  
DEPT PASS TDA FOR STEIN AND GREENIP  
CENTCOM FOR CG CFC-A, CG CJTF-76, POLAD, JICENT  
NSC FOR JWOOD  
TREASURY FOR ABAUKOL, BDAHL, AND MNUGENT  
MANILA PLEASE PASS ADB/USED  
PARIS FOR EMIN WINNICK AND POLMIN ROSENBLATT AND USOECD  
OSD FOR SHIVERS, SHINN  
COMMERCE FOR DEES, CHOPPIN, AND FONOVICH

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958 N/A  
TAGS: [ETRD](#) [EFIN](#) [EMIN](#) [KPWR](#) [EAID](#) [PGOV](#) [AF](#)  
SUBJECT: AF: AFGHANS REQUESTING POSTPONEMENT OF APRIL 24-25 REGIONAL  
ECONOMIC COOPERATION CONFERENCE (RECC) IN ISLAMABAD

REF: (A) STATE 25526 (B) Maerkle-Holman email 3/15/08

¶1. (U) On March 16, Mr. Enayatullah Nabel, Director General for Economic Affairs at the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs told Econ Counselor and Econoff that he had just met with the Pakistani Ambassador to Afghanistan to request a postponement of the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference (RECC), currently scheduled for April 24-25, 2008. The official reason given for the postponement request was the need of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (IRoA) to focus on the upcoming June Donor Conference in Paris. He is proposing the last week of August or first week of September 2008 to allow for adequate Afghan Government preparation.

¶2. (U) Mr. Nabel confirmed the IRoA has decided to focus its efforts on preparations for the June Donor Conference in Paris. According to him, President Karzai is eager to see the RECC go forward as soon as possible after the Donor Conference.

¶3. (U) Comment: This confirms our suspicions that the current list of international obligations/conferences facing the IRoA in spring 2008 is stretching their resources. Already on their plate are: the NATO Ministerial in Bucharest; IMF/WB meetings in Washington; a looming deadline for the completion of the Afghan National Development Strategy (ANDS); and an IMF mission expected in late April, early May plus, of course, the Paris donor conference in June. Postponing the RECC in Islamabad until late August 2008 will help ensure the IRoA is fully focused on engaging its neighbors on regional issues.

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